

CENTRE FOR CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING IN SPORT (CPSS)

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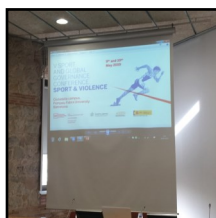
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CPSS hosts CASES kick-off meeting



The Sport England Advisory Panel



Violence in sport presentation at the Sport and Global Governance Conference



Expert Conference on Sexual Violence against Women & Children in Sports

Welcome to a new research centre at Edge Hill University

Edge Hill
University



The Centre for Child Protection and Safeguarding in Sport (CPSS) is a new research centre at Edge Hill. The centre is led by Dr Mike Hartill and Dr Melanie Lang (Department of Social Sciences).

Building on over 15 years of research at Edge Hill, CPSS produces high-quality research evidence that informs policy and practice within the field of safeguarding in sport and athlete welfare.

We work with many local, national and international organisations and agencies from the sport, child protection, and safeguarding sectors, as well as current athletes, coaches and coach educators. In particular, we work with and alongside individuals directly affected by abuse in a sports context.

CPSS staff have a range of expertise and contribute frequently to national and international projects, inquiries, conferences and networks in this field.

The results of the last UK Research Excellence Framework (REF2014) ranked the research produced by CPSS staff as having 'outstanding impacts in terms of their reach and significance', achieving a top-rated 4* ranking.

Save the Date:

CPSS Launch Event 15th January (see [website](#) for details)

CPSS hosts CASES kick-off meeting

CPSS is leading a 3-year study into child abuse in sport, funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ programme. The project – Child Abuse in Sport: European Statistics (CASES) – aims to establish prevalence rates for child maltreatment in European sport.

"Once we have more precise data on the scale and nature of the problem, in different national contexts, it can be used to improve efforts within sport to prevent abuse and enhance safeguarding. We also hope it will encourage the long-term collection of such data."

Mike Hartill, project coordinator



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



In February, the Centre held the kick-off meeting and hosted the project team (pictured).

The project will develop and implement an online questionnaire to survey young adults across six EU countries (Austria, Belgium, England, Germany, Romania, Spain).

CASES is a partnership, led by Edge Hill, involving 6 European universities (Cologne Sports University, Ulm, Antwerp, Vienna, Vic-Central Catalonia, Romanian Institute for Mother and Child Health); two national sport organisations (Sport England, German Sport Youth); and the International Association of Athletics Federations.

The Sport England Advisory Panel: #abuse2action



The Sport England Advisory Panel (SEAP) was established in late 2017 in response to an event staged by the VOICE Project at the East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham.

SEAP is populated principally by individuals with a lived experience of sexual violence within a sport setting. The Panel is chaired by Sheila Taylor MBE, director of the NWG Exploitation Response Unit, and currently has eight members. The inaugural meeting was held on 5th March 2018.

Through a collaboration between Sport England and CPSS, panel members designed and delivered two public events for stakeholders in sport. The first was held at Edge Hill on 25th January 2019 and the second at the Lee Valley Stadium in the Olympic Park on 12th March.



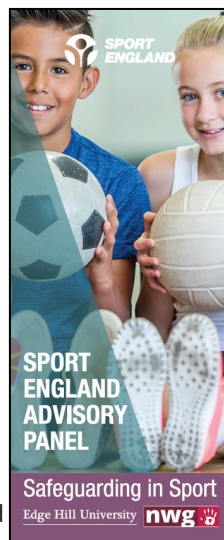
Karen Leach (SEAP)



Additional speakers included

Jayne Molyneux (Sport England Director Children & Young People), David Humphrey (Lawn Tennis Association Safeguarding Manager) and Kevin Murphy (NWG Safeguarding in Sport Lead).

Delegates stated the day was ‘thought-provoking’, ‘inspiring’, ‘breathtaking’ and ‘powerful’ when describing presentations by the Panel. Delegates were particularly impressed by the survivor-led aspect of the panel, which one delegate stated ‘is key to making changes and to further progress’.



CPSS Presentations & Publications

2019 has been a busy year for CPSS staff ... the year began with a presentation at Reykjavik University on 30th January.

This was the first event on sexual violence in sport ever held in Iceland and was initiated by a small but inspirational group of women who had been particularly affected by the #MeToo movement and who wanted to build on recent high-profile disclosures in Iceland.



Havard Ovregard

Mike spoke alongside a range of national and international speakers including Colin Harris and Karen Leach, campaigners for safer sport and founder members of the Sport England Advisory Panel, who spoke about their personal experiences of abuse in sport.

Professor Emerita Sandy Kirby from University of Winnipeg and founder member of Safe Sport International delivered the keynote presentation.



Sandy Kirby

The visit included meetings with officials from the city of Reykjavik and the national sport agency as well as individuals directly affected by abuse in sport.

Mike also helped to deliver a workshop for sports governing body personnel alongside Havard Ovregard, senior adviser at the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports.

Leeds, UK: Researching Safeguarding and Child Protection in the UK

In March, Melanie was invited back to her *alma mater*, Leeds Beckett University, to present some of her work in safeguarding and child protection in sport and the challenges and personal impact of conducting research in this sensitive area.



The conference, hosted by the Carnegie School of Sport, was held to celebrate International Women's Day and featured women academics from across the country speaking on a range of sport and physical activity -related topics.

Manchester, UK: Shining the Spotlight on Male Survivors

Following his research on the sexual abuse of boys in sport and a long-standing collaboration with Survivors Manchester, in 2018 Mike was invited to sit on the board of an important new initiative, the Male Survivors Partnership (MSP).



On 29th March Mike delivered one of several presentations for the inaugural MSP symposium at the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

This event included representatives from across the safeguarding and child protection sector, especially those working with 'survivors' of unwanted sexual experiences, as well as from the police and football.

Vilnius, Lithuania: Sports Workers' Welfare



In April, Laura discussed sports workers' welfare in a keynote address at the 12th annual conference of the Baltic Society of Sport Sciences in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Based on data generated from her work on professional men's basketball in Europe, Laura voiced the concerns of coaches, players and General Managers and offered ways sports organisations could better address the welfare of their workers.

Seoul: International Symposium on Sexual Violence in Sports

Mike was invited to present at the 16th Annual International Symposium hosted by the Korean Institute for Gender Equality Promotion and Education (KIGEPE) on Sexual Violence in Sports.

The symposium - again the first event on this topic in South Korea - was held in Seoul at the Korean Press Centre on 24th April, and was sponsored by the South Korean Ministry of Gender Equality and Family.



Mike explained the VOICE project and discussed some of the findings and outcomes from the project.

It was particularly interesting and

pleasing to see a short educational film produced by KIGEPE featuring female tennis player, Kim Eun-hee. Kim had recently disclosed childhood sexual abuse by her coach and successfully prosecuted him through the courts (see news report here). She had many important messages for others who are considering disclosing.

The KIGEPE are now in the process of translating and reproducing resources developed by the VOICE project.



Yoon Keong Nah,
President of KIGEPE

At the end of April, the Council of Europe staged an 'Expert Conference on Sexual Violence against Women and Children in Sports' in Helsinki, Finland.

Mike was invited to speak to the title "Mapping the field: how big is the problem? Facts and figures on sexual violence against women and children".

Mike was privileged to speak alongside one of the founders of this field, Professor Kari Fasting from the Norwegian School of Sport Science and Equal Rights in Sport.

Other speakers included Elda Moreno, Head of the Children's Rights and Sport Values Department, Council of Europe and Baroness Doreen Massey, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Mike's presentation is available on our website and the conference final report, including recommendations, is [here](#). We were particularly pleased to see a recommendation relating to the evaluation of initiatives (below), a topic on which CPSS staff have previously published:

Hartill, M. and O'Gorman, J. (2015) 'Evaluation in safeguarding and child protection in sport', in M. Lang & M. Hartill (eds.) *Safeguarding, Child Protection and Abuse in Sport: International Perspectives in Research, Policy and Practice*. London: Routledge, pp.181-191.



Conference recommendation

"Evaluate projects: initiatives to stop sexual harassment and abuse in sport have to be evaluated to see whether the objectives, activities and intended outcomes have been achieved. Evaluation will ensure the proper funding of relevant initiatives."

(Expert Conference on Sexual Violence against Women and Children in Sports, Helsinki, 29-30 April).

Barcelona: Violence in Sport at the Sport and Global Governance Conference

In May, Melanie was invited to deliver [a keynote address on violence in sport](#) at the Sport and Global Governance annual conference in Barcelona.

The two-day conference was hosted by [Pompeu Fabra University](#) at its Ciutadella Campus, in collaboration with the College of Professionals in Physical Activity and Sport of Catalonia (COPLEFC), and the Spanish Association for the Philosophy of Sport.

The theme of this year's conference was violence in sport. Drawing on the findings from a recent European Commission-funded study on [gender-based violence in EU countries](#)

that Melanie was involved in, along with other empirical evidence on violence in sport, Melanie spoke about what is currently known about all forms of interpersonal violence in sport, including violence and abuse against children, adults and other sport stakeholders, such as coaches. She also made suggestions for how sports stakeholders can better manage and reduce instances of violence and exploitation in sport.

Of special interest to Melanie was the dance performance by PE researchers and students from the University of Lleida in Catalonia on the impact of their own experiences of sexual harassment in sport.



See us online here: [Centre for Child Protection & Safeguarding in Sport](#)